

Air Education and Training Command

Replenishing the Combat Capability of America's Air Force



United States Air Force Enlisted Heritage

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U.S. AIR FORCE

Integrity - Service - Excellence



Overview



- **Introduction**
- **Heritage and culture**
- **USAF enlisted heritage/culture**
- **Implementing/supporting enlisted heritage/culture--application**
- **Summary and Closing Comments**



Introduction





Introduction



- We know—when compared to other military departments—that our heritage is not as dated—only going back 50+ years—but our enlisted corps does possess a proud heritage
- This presentation is to heighten the exploits and capture facts regarding the USAF's enlisted corps's heritage
- We're going to take an hour and look at our heritage from a cultural perspective.
Meaning—looking at this from a military society



Heritage and Culture



- Define “Heritage”



Heritage and Culture



- Definition of “Heritage”

“Something passed down from preceding generations; legacy, traditions”

American Heritage Dictionary

Meaning, “heritage” is what we inherit from past generations



Heritage and Culture



- Define “Culture”



Heritage and Culture



- Definition of “Culture”

“the totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, art, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought characteristic of a community or populations”

American Heritage Dictionary

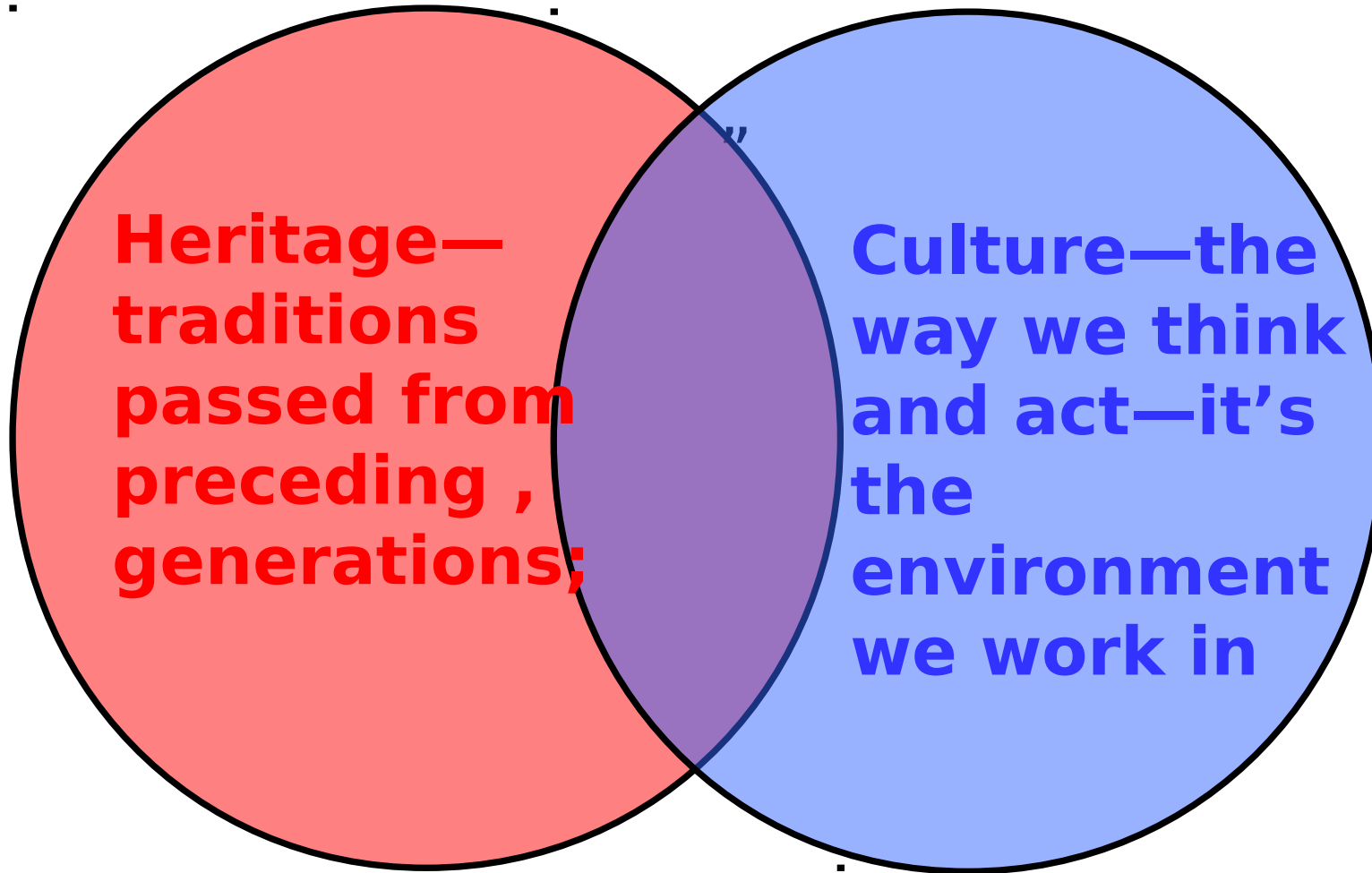
Lt Col James Smith wrote “every organization has a culture that is a persistent, patterned way of thinking about the central task of human relationships within the organization”



Heritage and Culture



- So heritage and culture come together





Enlisted History



Beginnings to WWII

- Balloonists in Civil war were denied military rank
- Sgt Baldwin in charge of all upkeep and training for 1st military balloon—employed during Spanish-American war
- 1st Aero squadron—in NM for Poncho Villa—learned lessons of maintainability—enlisted troops overcame all challenges



Enlisted History



Beginnings to WWII

- Air Service grows from 1,200 to 200,000 for WWI
- Support roles dominated the enlisted corp—when recruiting failed to find persons for these high tech jobs—the army tested its infantry (and other) personnel to find suitable fills
- After the war selection of enlisted members came to the front—alpha test, aptitude test, and high school equivalency test became standard
- Technical training started at Chanute—commanders wanted technical skills—not military preparedness



Enlisted History



Beginnings to WWII

During WWII—due to the demand for technical-based manpower—tech training was centralized and standardized



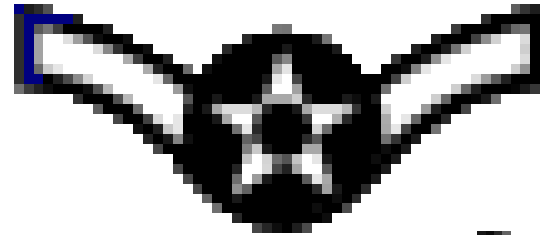


Enlisted History



Evolution to USAF

- Rank system remained unchanged until 1952
- New stripes sewed on “army” uniforms until mid 50’s
- Enlisted ranks top heavy





Enlisted History



Evolution to USAF

- USAF has always advocated an enlisted force with a high % of senior NCOs (top heavy)
- USAF formalized this program 45/55 in early 60's
- USAF developed programs for 45/55
 - Airman Career Program—classification sys. (AFS vs. MOS)
 - Weighted Airman Promotion Sys. (WAPS) centralized promo
 - TOPCAP—"up or out" program for "Korean hump"



Enlisted History



Evolution to USAF

- Enlisted corps “professionalized” by PME’s in 1950’s
- In 1953 NCOs tasked to write regulation on NCO responsibilities
- MAJCOMs also drafted instructions regarding NCO duties and privileges
 - Scott AFB—exempted from mundane duties, NCO only tables and could cash checks with officer’s endorsement
 - SRNCOs took over jobs held by officers



Enlisted History



Enlisted Establishment

- SMSgt and CMSgt grades
- 1958 authorized 2 new pay grades (E-8 and E-9)





Enlisted History



Enlisted Establishment

- Senior Enlisted Advisors (SEA) and Command Chief
- Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
 - In 1966 Congressman Rivers introduced a bill that would mandate each service appoint a senior enlisted rep
 - Bill never past but support put CMSgt Paul Airey as the first CMSAF in April 1967
 - Counting CMSgt Airey and our current CMSAF, Gerald Murray, there have been 14 CMSAFs





Enlisted History



Enlisted Milestones/Educational Programs

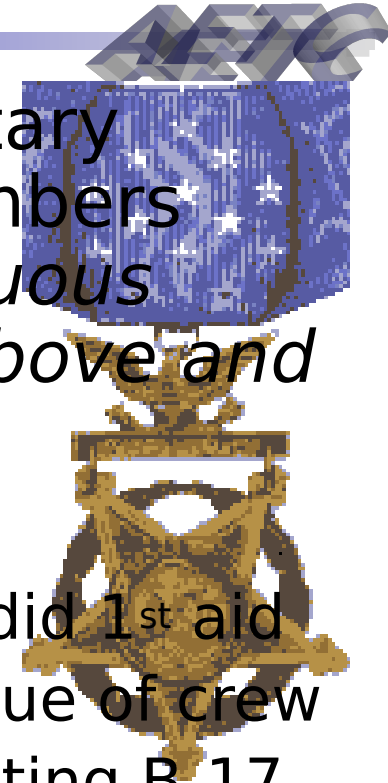
- Ms. Easter Blake was the first female to enlist in the USAF—8 July 1948
- CMSgt Grace Peterson—
 - Entered WAAC in 1942
 - On 1 June 1960 she became the first female to wear CMSgt Stripes
 - Highest ranking female to retire from WAF in 1963
- CCAF—started 1972, world's largest community college—only one in DoD (243,000 degrees)
- CEPME—ALS, NCOA, the SRNCOA and the AFEHRI



Enlisted Medal of Honor Recipients



- The Medal of Honor is the highest US military decoration and is awarded to service members *who distinguished themselves by conspicuous gallantry and courage at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty* (started in 1861)
- Army Air Corps recipients for WWII
 - Sgt Maynard Smith—manned waist guns and did 1st aid
 - TSgt Forrest Vosler—wounded tailgunner, rescue of crew
 - **SSgt Archibald Mathies**—crashed while piloting B-17
 - SSgt Henry Erwin—burned getting flare to window (B29)
- USAF recipients from Vietnam
 - **A1C William Pitsenbarger**, Pararescue-killed in firefight
 - A1C John Levitow, threw himself on burning flares





Enlisted Air Force Cross Recipients



- The Air Force Cross is awarded to US and foreign civilians and service members *who displayed extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations by a) declared war or b) situation where USAF is supporting allies*

- Here are 22 USAF enlisted recipients (1 upgraded to CMH)

A1C William Robinson

A1C Arthur Black

SSgt

Eugene Clay

A2C Duane Hackney*

Sgt Russell Hunt **Sgt Larry**

Maysey

CM Sgt Etchberger Sgt Nacey Kent Jr. Sgt Thomas Newman

A1C Joel E. Talley

TSgt Victor Adams **A1C Charles King**

Sgt Michael Fish

TSgt Donald Smith Sgt Theo Gamlin

TSgt Leory Wright

SSgt Charles Shaub

Sgt Charles McGrath

SSgt Jon Harston

TSgt Tim Wilkinson

SrA J Cunningham

Sgt Charles King

TSgt John Chapman



Questions



- 1. What is the primary difference in our USAF culture when compared to other services?**
- 2. How to we educate our airman on cultural matters?**
- 3. What effect does “QOL” matters have on our culture?**
- 4. What role does education—both professional and academic—have in our culture?**



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